

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 IO-14
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 /109 W
-----037190 241500Z /46

P R 241320Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2985
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOWCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 2361

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, UR, FI
SUBJ: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON USTINOV VISIT

REF: USDAO HELSINKI 240933Z JUL 78 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AN EDITORIAL IN THE "STALINIST" COMMUNIST PARTY MINORITY FACTION'S PRESS ORGAN TIEDONANTAJA JULY 13, COMMENTING ON THE VISIT TO FINLAND OF SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER DMITRI USTINOV (REFTEL), CALLED FOR JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND FINNISH ARMIES IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE TWO COUNTRIES' READINESS TO IMPLEMENT IF NECESSARY THE MILITARY CLAUSES OF THE 1948 FCMA TREATY. THE TIEDONANTAJA EDITORIAL AND THE CONCEPT OF JOINT MILITARY MANEUVERS WAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED IN FOLLOWING DAYS BY HELSINKI'S TWO MOST INFLUENTIAL INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS, THE HELSINGIN SANOMAT AND THE SWEDISH-LANGUAGE HUFVUDSTADSBLADET. BECAUSE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF

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THE ISSUE, THE EMBASSY QUOTES FROM THE THREE EDITORIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMUNIST TIEDONANTAJA, JULY 13 EDITORIAL, "ARMIES OF PEACE." "...THE VISIT OF THE HIGH-RANKING SOVIET GUEST TO FINLAND COINCIDES WITH THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEFENSE FORCES OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THIS ANNIVERSARY

COULD GIVE A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR A DEEPENING AND EXPANSION OF MILITARY-POLITICAL AND MILITARY COOPERATION. THE FINNISH DEFENSE MINISTER (TAHKAMAA) DID IN FACT GIVE A LIST OF CONCRETE MATTERS AS SUBJECTS OF COOPERATION. THEY INCLUDED THE ACQUISITION OF MATERIAL, TRAINING COOPERATION FOR OFFICERS AND VISITS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.

"THERE IS AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF THINGS TO BE DEVELOPED IN THE MATTERS MENTIONED BY TAHKAMAA TRAINING COOPERATION, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS UNTIL NOW BEEN MERELY FORMAL. THERE HAS BEEN SO LITTLE OF IT.

"...CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARMIES THAN WHAT FINLAND'S DEFENSE MINISTER SUGGESTED CAN BE SUGGESTED WITH JUSTIFICATION. THERE ARE VALID REASONS TO SUGGEST COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARMIES IN THE FORM OF SOME KIND OF JOINT EXERCISES. SINCE THE FCMA-PACT ORDERS FINLAND TO DEFEND ITSELF, IF NECESSARY, TOGETHER WITH THE SOVIET UNION, THE CONSEQUENCE IS THAT THERE MUST ALSO EXIST A MILITARY READINESS, IN ADDITION TO POLITICAL READINESS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ATTAIN IT WITH THE HELP OF OFFICERS' VISITS, WHICH ARE IN THEMSELVES EXCELLENTLY IMPORTANT, OR THROUGH OTHER CORRESPONDING COOPERATION. A JOINT DEFENSE IS SUCCESSFUL, IF ONE HAS TO RESORT TO IT, IN THE CASE THAT COOPERATION HAS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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TRAINED. THIS CAN'T MEAN ANYTHING ELSE THAN EXERCISES BETWEEN THE ARMIES IN SOME FORM AND TO SOME EXTENT.

"THE MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION SUGGESTED IN HIS REPLY SPEECH TO TAHKAMAA THE DEVELOPING OF MILITARY COOPERATION. USTINOV EMPHASIZED ALSO CONCRETE ACTS OF PEACE; THE FINNISH INITIATIVE FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN NORTHERN EUROPE BELONGS TO SUCH ACTS AND IT IS SUPPORTED BY THE SOVIET UNION. MARSHAL USTINOV'S STATEMENT EXPRESSED THE ESSENTIAL POINT CHARACTERIZING THE MILITARY-POLITICAL TASK OF THE SOVIET UNION AND, ACCORDING TO THE FCMA-PACT, ALSO THE TASK OF THE FINNISH ARMY AND MILITARY POLICY: IT IS THE QUESTION OF PEACE, THE SECURING OF PEACE; OF ARMIES WHICH EXIST FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE."

3. HELSINGIN SANOMAT, JULY 18 EDITORIAL, "STRANGE INTERPRETATION OF THE FENNO-SOVIET TREATY." "COMMUNIST TIEDONANTAJA HAS ONCE AGAIN PUBLISHED A NEW INTERPRETATION OF THE FENNO-SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP (FCMA). WRITING ON THE SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER'S VISIT, TIEDONANTAJA COMMENTED THAT IT WAS ONLY REASONABLE TO

PROPOSE SOME DEGREE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARMIES
IN THE FORM OF JOINING EXERCISES, AND THAT AS THE FCMA
TREATY OBLIGES FINLAND TO JOIN THE SOVIET UNION IN
DEFENSE WHEN NECESSARY, IT FOLLOWS THAT, IN
ADDITION TO POLITICAL AWARENESS, ALSO READINESS FOR
MILITARY ACTION IS REQUIRED. TIEDONANTAJA CONTINUED THAT
IT IS DIFFICULT TO GAIN READINESS FOR JOINT MILITARY
ACTION SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF OTHERWISE IMPORTANT VISITS
OF MILITARY PERSONNEL. JOINT DEFENSE CAN ONLY BE SUC-
CESSFUL IF BASED ON ADVANCE TRAINING. THIS CAN ONLY
MEAN SOME FORM OF JOINT MILITARY MANEUVERS, TIEDONANTAJA
WRITES. THUS TIEDONANTAJA CLAIMS THAT FINLAND AND
THE SOVIET UNION HAVE MISINTERPRETED THE TREATY FOR THE
PAST 30 YEARS." (HELSINGING SANOMAT QUOTES THE FIRST
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TWO ARTICLES OF THE TREATY AND GOES ON TO SAY THAT...)
"IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE TREATY DIFFERS
FUNDAMENTALLY FROM TRADITIONAL MILITARY AGREEMENTS ON
THE BASIS OF ITS FIRST AND SECOND ARTICLES. PRESIDENT
KEKKONEN FOR EXAMPLE HAS EMPHASIZED THIS ASPECT OF THE
TREATY. "FROM THE INTRODUCTION AND THE FIRST TWO ARTICLES
WE CAN SEE THAT THE TREATY IS NOT A PROPER MILITARY
ALLIANCE AS IT IS SO OFTEN MISTAKENLY INTERPRETED.' IT IS
DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW 'SOME FORM OF JOINT MILITARY
EXERCISES' WOULD ADVANCE FINLAND'S ABILITY FOR ANY
MILITARY ACTION IN THE WAY TIEDONANTAJA CLAIMS THE
FCMA TREATY OBLIGES FINLAND. ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS
EASY TO SEE THAT IF TIEDONANTAJA'S WISHES WERE
SULFILLED, FINLAND'S INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL POSITION
WOULD BE CHANGED IN EXACTLY THE WAY THAT THOSE WHO HAVE
TALKED MOST FERVENTLY ABOUT FINLANDIZATION HAVE TWISTED
THE CONCEPT OF THE FENNO-SOIVET RELATIONSHIP. CHANGING
FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL POSITION IS,
HOWEVER, TIEDONANTAJA'S MAIN WISH."

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4. HUFVUDSTADSBLADET, JULY 19 EDITORIAL, "A VISIT AND A COMMENT." "... USTINOV'S RECENT VISIT TO FINLAND CAN CERTAINLY BE CHARACTERIZED AS SIGNIFICANT. ...USTINOV BEARS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BIGGEST MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD, AND HE IS ALSO POLITICALLY AN EXTRAORDINARILY CENTRAL PERSON. IT IS USEFUL THAT HE HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DERIVE A CERTAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DEFENSE, AND TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEADERS OF OUR DEFENSE FORCES. HE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH OUR COUNTRY ALREADY IN 1964, AT THAT TIME AS A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

"THE STALINISTS' TIEDONANTAJA PUBLISHED LAST THURSDAY AN EDITORIAL WITH THE HEADLINE "ARMIES OF PEACE" WHICH IS IN ITSELF A POSITIVE EVALUATION OF OUR DEFENSE FORCES - AN UNUSUAL EVENT BECAUSE PARTICULARLY THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S OPPOSITION FACTION HAS CHARACTERIZED ITSELF BY NEGATIVISM ON DEFENSE ISSUES. THE NEWSPAPER UNCLASSIFIED

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QUOTES WITH ACCEPTANCE MINISTER TAHKAMAA'S SPEECH IN WHICH HE MENTIONS PROCUREMENTS OF MATERIAL AND CO-OPERATION IN TRAINING AS TWO POINTS WHERE THE DEFENSE FORCES OF BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE TO COOPERATE. HOWEVER, TIEDONANTAJA GOES FURTHER AND URGES ALSO JOINT MANEUVERS "OF SOME DEGREE." OTHERWISE, THE PAPER SAYS, THERE IS NOT A SUFFICIENT READINESS FOR A POSSIBLE JOINT DEFENSE DURING A WAR. IN ITS FOLLOWING ISSUE, THE NEWSPAPER BUILT THE IDEA FURTHER WITH A INTERVIEW WITH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT PAULI PUHAKKA, A STANINIST AND MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE, WHOSE INTERVIEW TO A GREAT EXTENT HAS THE SAME CONTENTS.

"HELSINGIN SANOMAT HAS TACKLED THE STATEMENT AND

REACTED WITH PUNGENT CRITICISM WHICH CAN BE SUPPORTED IN ITS ESSENTIAL POINTS. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEFENSE FORCES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IS A NATURAL PART OF GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS. THE CONSIDERABLE PURCHASES OF MATERIAL WE HAVE MADE AND CONTINUE TO MAKE FROM THE SOVIET UNION INDICATE THAT THE MILITARY LEADERS HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR DEFENSE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT COOPERATION IN OTHER FIELDS, FOR EXAMPLE IN TRAINING, COULD BE EXPANDED.

"THE TALK ABOUT JOINT MANEUVERS CARRIES US, HOWEVER, TO ANOTHER LEVEL. IT TOUCHES OUR LINE OF FOREIGN POLICY, AND IT WOULD EASILY RESULT IN UPSETTING THE COURSE FINLAND HAS MAINTAINED, A COURSE WHICH HAS BEEN EVALUATED AS A POSITIVE ONE IN A LONG ROW OF FINNISH-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE. FINALLY, THE SENSITIVE NORDIC BALANCE WOULD BE DISTURBED AND COUNTERACTIONS WOULD HARDLY BE LATE IN COMING.

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"TIEDONANTAJA HAS BEEN WORKING FOR A LONG TIME AND DILIGENTLY IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY, ITS STATEMENTS DO NOT GENERALLY HAVE TO BE TAKEN SO SOLEMNLY. THE SUBJECT IT IS NOW TOUCHING IS, HOWEVER, SO SERIOUS THAT A COMMENT IS MOTIVATED." (BY JAN-MAGNUS JANSSON, CHIEF EDITOR)
FRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HELSIN02361
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780303-0462
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780729/aaaaaxth.tel
Line Count: 257
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b53ff96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1911432
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON USTINOV VISIT
TAGS: MPOL, UR, FI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b53ff96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014